

REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

By this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-17, and 20-25 are presented for reconsideration. The independent claims are amended and dependent claims 6 and 20 are amended to conform to the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 7.

At the outset, Applicants' representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the interview conducted February 9, 2009. At that interview, the Examiner agreed that none of the references upon which he relies in his Final Rejection of January 16, 2009 suggests left and right stepping force detectors. No other features of Applicants' invention were discussed, although Applicants' representative had clarified the feature of the "auxiliary information" that has been recited in the claims for quite some time.

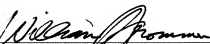
Consistent with the aforementioned interview, all of the apparatus claims present in this application recite the feature of left and right stepping force detectors, and all of the method claims recite the feature of detecting stepping forces provided by the left and right feet of audience members. In addition, all of the claims present in this application point out the use of the auxiliary information, namely, the use of the information that indicates whether the content currently is displayed, whether that content is audio or video content and if video, the particular scene that is displayed. This use, as recited in the claims, is a factor in determining the audience response -- a different audience response is determined depending upon the auxiliary information, even if the determined motion vectors and sound state, and the detected load conditions do not change. It is respectfully submitted, none of Hennes, Kimpara or Deering, all relied upon by the Examiner, is suggestive of the auxiliary information recited by Applicants' claims or the use of that auxiliary information, as claimed.

It is further submitted that Applicants' claims differ from the cited prior art for those reasons that have been argued previously, namely, for the reasons set out in the Amendment filed November 20, 2008. In the interest of brevity, those arguments are not repeated here -- rather, they are incorporated by reference.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted claims 1-4, 6-17, and 20-25, all the claims remaining in this application, are in condition for allowance. Early notice of the allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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